Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /022 W

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R 230910Z NOV 74 FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM TO USDOC WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9026 AMEMBASSY JIDDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 2624

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP EALR ENRG EAGR SU SUBJ: SPECIAL TRADEOPPORTUNITY - FERTILIZER PLANT AND REFINERY IN PORT SUDAN

- 1. IN CONVERSATION NOV 20 WITH AMBASSADOR, AMCIT MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TRIAD SUDAN SAID PLANS WERE PROCEEDING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF \$350 MILLION REFINERY AND \$180 MILLION UREA PLANT AT PORT SUDAN. BELIEVE USDOC SHOULD (A) MAKE SURE APPROPRIATE US COMPANIES ARE AWARE OF PROJECTS, AND (B) GIVE US SHORT LISTS OF COMPANIES TO WHICH INVITATION TO TENDER COULD BE ISSUED.
- 2. REFINERY WILL USE SAUDI CRUDE, PURCHASED ON QUOTE MFN UNQUOTE BASIS. CAPACITY SCHEDULED BE 200,000 BARRELS PER DAY, OR 10 MILLION TONS PER ANNUM, OF NAPTHA AND LOW-SULPHUR (0.5 PERCENT) FUEL OIL. PART OF NAPTHA WILL BE USED FOR UREA PLANT BUT MOST OF PRODUCTION WILL BE EXPORTED, LARGELY TO VARIOUS PUBLIC UTILITIES ON EAST COAST OF US UNDER 20-25 YEAR CONTRACT. SAME UTILITIES REPORTEDLY SEEKING EQUITY SHARE IN REFINERY, OF WHICH GOS AND TRIAD WOULD ALSO BE PART-OWNERS. PROJECT IS NEWER VERSION OF ONE STUDIED BY FRENCH COMPANY AT INSTANCE OF TRIAD (KHARTOUM 276 AND 1494).
- 3. UREA PLANT WOULD PRODUCE 470,000 TONS PER ANNUM, USING NAPTHA (200,000 TONS) FROM REFINERY AS BASE. FOR FIRST FIVE YEARS 40-50 PERCENT OF PRODUCTION WOULD BE EXPORTED, SO AS TO PERMIT REPAYMENT OF FOREIGN LOANS. CAPITALIZATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROJECT EXPECTED TO BE EASIER THAN THAT OF REFINERY BECAUSE OF

HIGH RETURN (22 PERCENT ON EQUITY AFTER SECOND YEAR, 35 PERCENT AFTER COMPLLETION OF LOAN PAYMENTS).

4. TRIAD SOURCE DID NOT SAY WHETHER SUDAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (SDC) WOULD PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN PROJECTS.
PRESIDENT NIMEIRI REPORTEDLY WILL FORMALLY INAUGURATE SDC NOVEMBER 23 AND ORGANIZATION MAY BECOME SOMEWHAT MORE ACTIVE THEREAFTER. HOWEVER, TRIAD STILL APPEARS BE CARRYING BALL ON THESE TWO BANKABLE PROJECTS WHICH NOW APPEAR IN SEPARATE CATEGORY FROM OTHER, LESS FINANCIALLY ATTRACTIVE, SCHEMES ON WHICH SDC MAY FOCUS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: FERTILIZER INDUSTRY, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, DATA

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 23 NOV 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KHARTO02624

Document Number: 1974KHARTO02624 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: D740340-0424 From: KHARTOUM Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741118/aaaaaonp.tel Line Count: 73 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: NERY IN PORT SUDAN Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: CollinP0

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 26 AUG 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SPECIAL TRADEOPPORTUNITY - FERTILIZER PLANT AND

TAGS: BEXP, EALR, ENRG, EAGR, SU

To: COM

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005